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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R.
§1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 3731

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Applicants: | Yoshio Onuki et al. | Examiner: | Michael G. Mendoza |
| Serial No: | 10/616,517 | Art Unit: | 3731 |
| Filed: | July 10, 2003 | Docket: | 15679 |
| For: | ENDOSCOPIC SUTURE APPARATUS | Dated: | October 12, 2005 |
| Conf. No.: | 1188 | | |

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Sir:

In response to the Final Official Action dated July 13, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in light of the following amendments and remarks:

DO NOT ENTER
10/31/05

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 12, 2005.

Dated: October 12, 2005

Thomas Spinelli